

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-04 IGA-01 RSC-01 L-02 TRSE-00

PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /049 W

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R 220915Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4634

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 4773

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, BG

SUBJ: BDG REPRESENTATION AT CONSORTIUM MEETING

REFS: DACCA 4703, STATE 230757

1. AS WITH THE CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER BEFORE ME, MY ARGUMENTS YESTERDAY TO NURUL ISLAM THAT HE SHOULD REPRESENT BANGLADESH AT THE CONSORTIUM MEETING FELL ON VERY NEARLY DEAF EARS. HE SAID THAT EVEN IF HE CONSIDERED HIS PRESENCE ESSENTIAL, WHICH HE DID NOT, HE COULD NOT HAVE GONE AS HE HAD TO STAY TO HELP PREPARE FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT TO DACCA AND FOR THE PRIMIN'S IMMEDIATELY SUBSEQUENT TRIP ABROAD (A REFERENCE TO MUJIB'S TRIP TO CAIRO AND KUWAIT). HE ALSO PUT SOME STRESS ON HIS VIEW THAT PARIS MEETING WAS EMERGENCY MEETING TO COME UP WITH SHORT-TERM HELP AND THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER LEFT TO THE NEXYMEETING IN APRIL TO GET DEEPLY INTO BDG'S LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS. WITH RESPECT TO SHORT-TERM HELP, HE SAID HE BELIEVED HE HAD ALREADY MADE THE CASE AS WELL AS HE COULD MAKE IT IN EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS HE HAS HAD RECENTLY WITH SECRETARY BUTZ, AID ADMINISTRATOR PARKER AND OTHER SENIOR WESTERN OFFICIALS. HE ALSO STRESSED HIS VIEW THAT AGRICULTURE, PLUS POPULATION, WILL BE PRIMARY FOCUS FOR PARIS AND THT AHSAN'S COMPETENCE EXCEEDS HIS OWN IN THESE AREAS.

2. HE ALSO MADE THE POINT THAT AHSAN WOULD BE SPEAKING FROM A CAREFULLY CLEARED BRIEF AND THAT, WHETHER HE OR AHSAN WERE THERE, NEITHER COULD GO BEYOND THE POLICY PARAMETERS SET OUT IN THE BRIEF. HE CITED AS AN EXAMPLE THE QUESTION OF DOMESTIC GRAIN
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PROCUREMENT. IN A FEW WEEKS, HE SAID, HE HOPED HE COULD SAY SOME-

THING DEFINITIVE ON PROCUREMENT--BUT NOT NOW. THIS MEANT, HE SAID, THAT WE SHOULD LOOK TO A CONTINUING DIALOGUE ON THESE ISSUES RATHER THAN TO A ONE-SHOT PERFORMANCE IN PARIS.

3. WHILE HE OBVIOUSLY WOULD NOT WANT TO GO ON RECORD THAT "PROTOCOL" PROBLEMS LAY BEHIND HIS DECISION, HIS SENSITIVITY TO THE FACT THAT OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND AGENCIES WILL BE REPRESENTED AT LESS THAN HIS MINISTERIAL RANK TENDED TO CONFIRM THAT THIS ISSUE WAS UNDOUBTEDLY ONE OF THE FACTORS.
BOSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING DELEGATIONS, CONSORTIUMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974DACCA04773
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740300-0808
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741028/aaaaaxlv.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: DACCA 4703, STATE 230757
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BDG REPRESENTATION AT CONSORTIUM MEETING
TAGS: EAID, BG, (ISLAM, NAZRUL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005